

FREE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT IN BLOOMINGTON CREEKSIDE'S COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC JAM

ON SATURDAY MORNINGS, 15 TO 20 vehicles pull up behind Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Musicians unload guitars, drums, keyboards, ukuleles and accordions to set up for the weekly "Country Western Music Jam." No one in this group is paid; they volunteer their talents for the large audience that turns up week after week to enjoy the music. Many senior citizens take part, but there are also younger folks who participate.



Emcee Mack Sirois explains how the group formed about 50 years ago



when several aspiring young musicians would meet to jam on Saturday mornings at Suneson's Music Store in Minneapolis. Sirois mixes introductions with jokes and special compliments for the tasty snacks and coffee served. Nicknames are common. Players answer to Southern Bob, California Dave, Mayor of Upsala, Country Norma, Northern Bob, Keyboard Jerry, Mr. Bones and Harmonica Don.

In addition to the lively music, many in the band and audience come forward to sing a favorite tune. The Parker brothers, Frank and Gordy, often step up to sing or yodel. Later, Frank and his wife Marge may decide to sing a duet. Harmonica Don can make his instrument "sing" just about any song you can think of. When Keyboard Jerry plays "Roll out the Barrel," the audience shows enthusiastic appreciation. Drummer Terry maintains an upbeat tempo for each tune.

People come from all over the Twin Cities to enjoy the free entertainment. Sing, listen or play along; everyone is welcome to participate. One thing's for sure, on **Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, Creekside rocks with country music. Come check it out. You'll have a great time.

Contributed by Sharon Storholm.

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOOMINGTON CITIZENS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

LARRY YAZZIE AWARDED HUMAN RIGHTS HONOR



NATIVE PRIDE DANCER LARRY YAZZIE will be honored with the 2006 Omar Bonderud Award at a City Council meeting in December.

Yazzie, an international lecturer, educator, performer and a world champion fancy dancer, was raised on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in central Iowa and began dancing at the age of seven. During his childhood, Yazzie was taught the traditions of the Meskwaki people, including the fancy dance and the Northern Plains style of singing. Combining entertainment with education, Yazzie performs for a variety of audiences including K-12 students, colleges and universities, corporate gatherings and community festivals. Yazzie is dedicated to understanding and promoting bridge-building through traditional and cultural diversity worldwide.

"I want to share my gift with others and challenge people to learn about other cultures that exist right here in America," Yazzie said.

The Omar Bonderud Award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to ensuring the rights of people in the community. For more information, call 952-563-8733, TTY 952-563-8740, or visit the City of Bloomington's website at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Bonderud.

BOB PETERS SELECTED AS LEGACY AWARD WINNER



BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER AND community volunteer Bob Peters was presented with the Bloomington Community Foundation Legacy Award in November.

Peters, a person with quadriplegia as the result of a shallow-water diving accident in 1964, has been involved in local, state and national activities and numerous organizations that seek to improve the lives of people with disabilities. He is also actively involved in promoting diversity awareness and communications. Peters is currently a member of the Bloomington Disability Employment Awareness Committee and Bloomington School District 271's K-6 Disability Awareness Committee. He is also a nationally known freelance writer of disability-related travel articles.

The Legacy Award is presented annually to an outstanding Bloomington citizen who demonstrates community leadership, exhibits high ethical standards, illustrates ongoing support for community projects and addresses community challenges. For more information on the Bloomington Community Foundation, call 952-896-3270 or visit www.bloomington-mn.org, Keywords: Clubs and Organizations.

TED NEMZEK RECEIVES ELEVEN WHO CARE AWARD

"IF YOU BELIEVE IN IT, YOU SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN it," said former Human Rights Commissioner Ted Nemzek who is a KARE 11 Eleven Who Care Award recipient for 2006.

A 14-year volunteer with the Bloomington School District Learning Exchange, Nemzek has spent many hours working with adults with developmental disabilities in various classes and through theater productions. Nemzek has also been involved with the Memorial Rifle Squad at Fort Snelling National Cemetery over the past decade. Serving as both Commander and Vice Commander, he has participated in more than 4,000 funerals for veterans buried at Fort Snelling. He is an on-call volunteer with the Vietnam Honor Guard and travels to various cemeteries. In October, the Bloomington City Council presented Nemzek with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his volunteer efforts.

If you would like to become a volunteer, call 952-563-4957 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: volunteer.



HERE FOR YOU

HUMAN SERVICES HELP LINE YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

HUMAN SERVICES HELP LINE provides information related to housing, financial assistance, health insurance, legal services, childcare and volunteer opportunities for people who live, work or attend school in Bloomington. Staff can help clarify your request, discuss possible resources and help you get connected to appropriate resources. Community resource catalogs, Health Care Choices booklets and senior housing directories are also available. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY or visit Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION (BSCO) TASTE OF JAPAN – A FUN, CULTURAL EVENT



JOIN THE BLOOMINGTON SISTER CITY Organization for an evening of cultural fun, food and festivities for the whole family at Taste of Japan on **Saturday, March 3**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza. For more information, call 952-563-8735.

BSCO HOSTS TWIN CITIES MARATHON RUNNER

FOR THE second year in a row, the BSCO hosted a runner from Izumi City, Japan, to run in the Twin Cities



Marathon. Tomoyuki Kinoshita, pictured above, a student at the University of St. Andrews in Japan, ran the Twin Cities Marathon in October in a time of 2:42:37. He finished 56th overall. Runners from Bloomington have been participating in the International Senshu Marathon in Izumi City since 1996.